



ParentInfo

News for a child's most important educator

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IN THIS ISSUE

- 2** 2013 Kentucky Summer Reading program
- 2** Camp What A Wonder ready to 'uncover' more learning
- 3** Don't allow your child to fall prey to financial aid/scholarship scams
- 4** Kentucky Arts Council publishes online directory of summer arts camps



Ready to read

Parents see the benefits when children read during the summer



Susan Riddell,
ParentInfo editor

I'll be the first to admit that I don't have much patience. Next to none would actually be a more accurate assessment. So when I'm waiting in a long line, my frustration naturally intensifies.

I spent almost an hour in one of those long lines Saturday, outside with no shade. With the sun beating down on me, and after I looked at my watch for the third or fourth time, it finally hit me.

If I'm getting frustrated over the fact that several hundred parents showed up at the local library to sign up their child for the summer reading program then something is terribly wrong with me.

Studies show that summer reading is imperative in the success of a child's instructional retention of knowledge from one school year to the next. That's one reason why I took my soon-to-be 1st-grader to our local library to sign up for the program.

The fact that hundreds of other parents also were at the library's summer reading kickoff, too, is nothing but positive. (You can read more about the statewide summer reading effort from the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives on Page 2 of this newsletter.)

Once we made it through the line and signed up for the program, my daughter was eager to go in and check out some books. She found several that she liked, but was upset that all the [Flat Stanley](#) books were checked out. I explained to her that meant we'd have to come back to the library each week to see if any of those books had been returned and were available. She accepted that.

So far, my daughter has read eight books for the summer reading program. If she continues this pace, we'll need to turn those weekly library visits into daily ones. If more parents do that, I envision long lines at the book checkout counter.

But as I've come to realize, those are lines in which the waiting is completely worth it.

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[Click here](#) to sign up to receive this newsletter twice a month.

More summer learning

Camp What A Wonder ready to 'uncover' more learning

Parents looking for an interactive way to keep a child learning over the summer may be interested in the National Center for Family Literacy's (NCFL) Camp What A Wonder.

Camp What A Wonder (CWA) is a virtual camp that provides children, parents and literacy practitioners inspiration and opportunities for parents and children to read and learn together during the summer. To be held June 17 – July 26, CWA is a free special segment of the award-winning Wonderopolis.org.

Campers will explore a different theme each week through online and offline lessons and activities, all created to show how wonder and learning can happen anywhere and at any time. This year's "Uncover the Wonder Around You" weekly themes include: Earth and Environment; Sky and Weather; Structures and Buildings; Technology and Innovation; Travel and Transportation; and

See Virtual learning, Page 3



2013 Kentucky Summer Reading program: Can you dig it?

Summer reading programs at local Kentucky public libraries provide a wonderful opportunity for students to maintain reading skills.

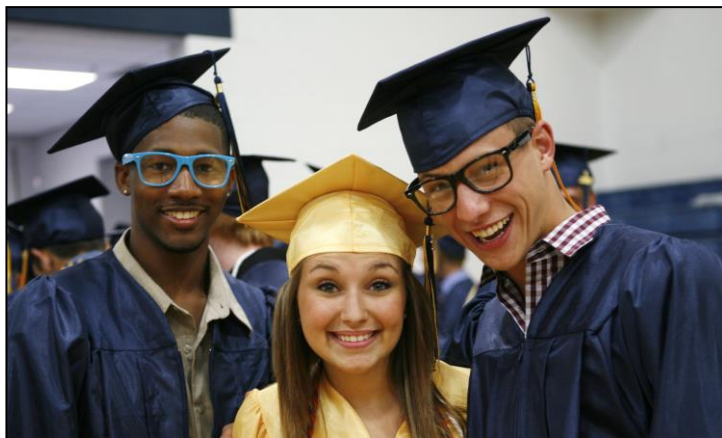
This year's statewide theme is Dig into Reading as readers of all ages will explore the wonders under our feet – buried treasure, evidence of ancient civilizations, insects, dinosaur bones, gardening and more.

Parents are encouraged to help children use "[Find a Book, Kentucky](#)" to build personal reading lists for summer reading and then locate their selections at their school or public library or at a local bookstore. "Find a Book, Kentucky" uses the widely-adopted Lexile measure to match a reader with books that will provide the right level of challenge to support reading growth.

The new Find a Book [app](#) is the ultimate book search tool for educators, parents, librarians and students to download on their Android mobile phone. School and public librarians are ready to assist children and their parents as they make summer reading selections.

For more information about specific activities, contests and reading events for the Summer Reading Program in your county, contact your [local public library](#). Local public libraries across Kentucky have planned programs to keep children reading and learning all summer. Whether counting the amount of time your children spend reading or the number of books they have read this summer, children who join the summer reading program at their public library keep their brains active and enter school in the fall ready to learn and ready to succeed.

You can find out more about this summer's reading program [here](#) or by contacting [Heather Dieffenbach](#).



Your student has done his or her homework and is ready for college. Make sure you do your homework when looking for a reputable financial aid provider.

Don't allow your child to fall prey to financial aid/scholarship scams

Parents of college-bound students often hear from companies that promise to help them find financial aid to pay for college. But families don't have to pay for this kind of information, according to the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA).

Financial aid information can be obtained free by working with a school counselor, checking out sources in the library, doing free online scholarship searches or contacting the financial aid office of the college the student plans to attend.

If you decide to use a company to help find financial aid, make sure you're dealing with a reputable one. The Federal Trade Commission cautions students and parents to be especially skeptical about scholarship search companies and websites that make these claims:

- "You've been selected by a national foundation to receive a scholarship." Check with a guidance counselor to find out if the foundation is legitimate. Be especially wary if you're notified that your child is a finalist in a scholarship contest he or she didn't enter.
- "We'll do all the work." It's highly unlikely that the company will fill out all the applications for all the financial aid sources it sends your child.
- "I just need your credit card or bank account number to hold this scholarship for your child." Never give these numbers to a person or company you're not sure about.
- "Your child is guaranteed to get money for college or your money back." Read the fine print. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

KHEAA is the state agency that administers Kentucky's student aid programs, including the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES). To find links to other useful education websites, go to www.gotocollege.ky.gov. For more information about Kentucky scholarships and grants, visit www.kheaa.com.

Virtual learning, from Page 2

Animals.

CWAW was created as a fun way to address loss of reading and mathematics skills and support out-of-school time. Key objectives of CWAW are:

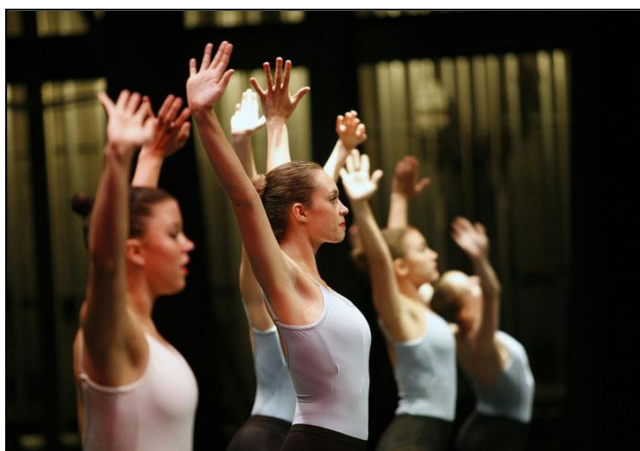
- spark wonder and passion for two generations learning together outside of school walls and maintain participation over the six-week virtual program
- build concrete skills (reading, background knowledge, vocabulary, mathematics, critical thinking) while logging hours wondering together
- illustrate how wonder leads to learning, and that these opportunities are available to everyone

For more information, contact [Sara Ulliman](mailto:Sara.Ulliman@kheaa.com) at (502) 584-1133, ext.174.

DID YOU KNOW: A recent blog mentioned that children are in school only 14 percent of the year.

Think what you do as a parent isn't important to their education?

Please share ParentInfo with others.



Kentucky Arts Council publishes online directory of summer arts camps

Kentucky youths have multiple opportunities to participate in the arts this summer through camps sponsored by nonprofit arts organizations that are partners with the Kentucky Arts Council.

Summer activities, including music, visual art, crafts, dance, theater and more, are available for children to discover the arts throughout the state during now through August. The arts council has published an online directory of arts camps available on its website with location, dates and contact information.

"Kentucky Arts Partners play many roles in their communities but maybe none more important than providing hands-on educational opportunities to children in their regions," said Lori Meadows, executive director of the arts council. "KAP organizations spent \$8.9 million on arts education in fiscal year 2012 and served 1.4 million youths, including participants from all 120 Kentucky counties."

Camps listed in the directory are sponsored by arts organizations that receive unrestricted operating support from the arts council through the Kentucky Arts Partnership Grant.

"Their dedication to stimulating child development through the arts is paramount to supplementing arts education in the state and the kids have a great time while learning," said Meadows.

Many of the summer camps offer participants opportunities to get hands-on experience in their fields of interest. View a complete list of summer camps online [here](#).

The [Kentucky Arts Council](#), the state arts agency, creates opportunities for Kentuckians to value, participate in and benefit from the arts. Kentucky Arts Council funding is provided by the Kentucky General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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Check out 'Kentucky Teacher'

[Click here](#) to see what your child's teacher is reading in *Kentucky Teacher*. Recent items include a districtwide 1:1 initiative; how behavior programs can impact college- and career-readiness; and blog entries from teachers of the year and KDE photographer Amy Wallot.